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Oeuvres Complètes de Maximilien Robespierre. Première Partie.

Robespierre à Arras. Tome II. *Les Oeuvres Judiciaires, 1782-1786.* Par ÉMILE LESUEUR, Docteur en Droit. [Société des Études Robespierristes.] (Paris: Ernest Leroux. 1913. Pp. 407.)

THE Société des Études Robespierristes does not limit its field of investigation to Robespierre and his partisans. It states officially that its journal, the *Annales Révolutionnaires*, and the monographs which appear under its direction shall embrace the study of the whole period of the French Revolution and that all its work shall above all else be done critically and without bias. It is rendering an invaluable service to the students of the revolutionary period by the publication of the complete works of Robespierre. M. Émile Lesueur, intrusted with the compilation of the materials dealing with Robespierre's legal practice at Arras, has accompanied the second volume of the series with a carefully prepared and very interestingly written general introduction and has given a special setting for the more important legal documents. He fails however to describe the court procedure and he also omits the introduction of the reader to the social environment in which Robespierre lived and worked.

To judge from the eighty cases in which Robespierre appeared 116 times before the Conseil d'Artois during the first five years of his legal practice, it would seem that he was fairly successful as a barrister. The court decided the great majority of these cases in Robespierre's favor. His success in this respect was due to two reasons: to the choice of his cases and to the careful study and presentation of them. He had a very exalted idea of the legal profession. He would not plead the cause of wrong, and he considered it to be the special mission of the advocate to protect the poor and weak against the rich and powerful. He was an enthusiastic disciple of Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Beccaria, and was familiar with the best thought of his time.

Only six of the eighty cases covered in this volume contain material actually coming from Robespierre. For the other seventy-four cases, to which only forty-six pages are given, Lesueur merely mentions the names of the lawyers and the respective clients and reproduces short extracts from the court's decisions showing whether or not they were in favor of Robespierre. And even for the six cases the material consists not of actual pleadings in court but of documents prepared outside of the court chamber. It was quite customary for the advocate to prepare a written pleading, brief, or "mémoire" in defense of his client for the college of judges. The written document was considered of much greater importance and carried more weight than oral pleadings. Judging however from statements of unbiassed witnesses, reproduced by Lesueur, Robespierre made some very effective oral pleadings. Locally at least he was considered a highly talented and rapidly rising young lawyer and orator.

The document prepared in defense of Vissery de Boisvallé is especially interesting and received more than local consideration. This gentleman, lawyer, painter, botanist, natural philosopher, inventor, had put a lightning rod upon his house and was, because of this act, attacked by ill-intentioned and superstitious neighbors. The local authorities upheld the agitated people in their demand that this dangerous invention be destroyed. In this trial Robespierre was at his best, for it was characteristic of him to argue for a principle rather than a specific case. He defended the cause of experimentation and innovation as a necessary means to progress. He drew upon his fine classical learning for examples showing how the advancement of civilization had repeatedly been checked by ignorance, superstition, and intolerance. This trial attracted the attention of various scientific societies and even a wide circle of the more intelligent reading public of France.

The "mémoire" in behalf of François Déteuf, who was maliciously accused by a designing clergyman of theft, and the replication in defense of Marie Sommerville, who was arrested because of debt, are also interesting documents and help to reveal the Robespierre of the Revolution.

CARL CHRISTOPHELSMEIER.

Francisco de Miranda: Général de Division des Armées de la République (1791-1794); Héros de l'Indépendance Américaine (1756-1816). Par ALPH. Comte Ô KELLY DE GALWAY. [Les Généraux de la Révolution.] (Paris: Honoré Champion. 1913. Pp. 190.)

THIS book is a *mélange*. In that section of it which is incorrectly entitled biography are found excerpts from certain historical writers who have dealt with Miranda: Villanueva, Chuquet, Guinan. Among these excerpts are numerous brief sources: some are reprinted from the *Moniteur*, while others are unpublished documents from the Archives Nationales and from the archives of the Parisian police. Data are presented which concern Miranda's iconography: for example, there is an account of the names inscribed on the Arc-de-Triomphe at Paris. French translations are printed of two laws of Venezuela passed to commemorate Miranda's career as a revolutionary leader.

Another section of the book is entitled documents. A French translation of the baptismal certificate of Miranda appears here. A page deals with Miranda's descendants. A note embodies a reference to Miranda found in a letter preserved in the Musée Alexandre Dumas. The address which Miranda proposed to deliver to the National Convention in March, 1793, is printed from a pamphlet in the Bibliothèque Nationale. A group of documents follow which deal mainly with Miranda in 1792 and 1793: some of these documents were unpublished. Some of the documents concerning Miranda's trial in 1793 are taken from the collection edited by Aristides Rojas. In the same collection